

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY



JOINT LEGISLATIVE TRANSPORTATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

REPORT TO THE 2012 SESSION of the 2011 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

MAY 16, 2012

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TRANSMITTAL LETTER

May 16, 2012

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE 2012 REGULAR SESSION
OF THE 2011 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

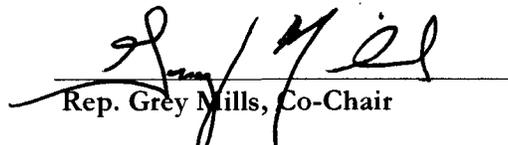
The **JOINT LEGISLATIVE TRANSPORTATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**
respectfully submits the following report to the 2012 Regular Session of the 2011
General Assembly.



Sen. Bill Rabon, Co-Chair



Rep. Phillip Frye, Co-Chair



Rep. Grey Mills, Co-Chair

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COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS

The Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee met eight times from October 2011 to May 2012. The following is a brief summary of the Committee's proceedings. Detailed minutes and information from each Committee meeting are available in the Legislative Library.

October 11, 2011

The first meeting of the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee during the 2011-2012 biennium was held Tuesday, October 11, 2011 in Room 1228 of the Legislative Building. After a review of the Committee Charge, the Committee heard an overview of DOT's budget from Anna Cameron, Committee Staff. Next, the Committee heard presentations on DOT's prioritization process from Don Voelker, Director, Strategic Planning Office, DOT and Alpesh Patel, Strategic Planning Office, DOT. Following these presentations, the Committee heard a presentation on hurricane preparation and recovery from Terry Gibson, State Highway Administrator, DOT, and Jon Nance, Chief Engineer of Operations, DOT. Next, the Committee heard a presentation on budgeting for natural disasters and other weather events from Mark Foster, Chief Financial Officer, DOT. The final presentation of the meeting, an update on high speed rail, was given by Paul Worley, Director, Engineering & Safety Branch, Rail Division, DOT.

November 4, 2011

The second meeting of the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee during the 2011-2012 biennium was held Friday, November 4, 2011 in Room 1228 of the Legislative Building. The Committee first heard a presentation on the advantages and disadvantages of tolling, with a State and national perspective, from Thomas Harrelson, Associate Vice President, AECOM, and former Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Transportation. Next, the Committee heard a presentation on the future of tolling in North Carolina from Terry Gibson, State Highway Administrator, DOT. Next, the Committee heard an overview of the North Carolina Turnpike Authority from David Joyner, Executive Director, N.C. Turnpike Authority. The final presentation, on the steps in the road building process, was made by Terry Gibson, State Highway Administrator, DOT.

January 13, 2012

The third meeting of the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee during the 2011-2012 biennium was held Friday, January 13, 2012 at the North Carolina Ports Authority Maritime Building in Wilmington, North Carolina. The Committee first heard a presentation on Statewide logistics initiatives from Roberto Canales, Coordinator of Strategic Initiatives, DOT. Next, the Committee heard a presentation on the North Carolina maritime strategy study from Rachel Vandenberg, Project Manager, AECOM/URS/Eydo Consultant Team. Following this presentation, the Committee heard

an overview of the North Carolina State Ports Authority (NCSPA) from Jeff Miles, Chief Operating Officer, NCSPA, and Jeff Strader, Chief Financial Officer, NCSPA. The final presentation, a Ferry Division overview and comments on Hurricane Irene emergency response, was given by Harold Thomas, Ferry Division Director, DOT. Following these presentations, the Committee took tours of the Port of Wilmington Terminal and the Fort Fisher-Southport Ferry operation.

February 10, 2012

The fourth meeting of the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee during the 2011-2012 biennium was held Friday, February 10, 2012 in Room 1228 of the Legislative Building. The Committee first heard a rockslide update from Jon Nance, Chief Engineer, DOT. Next, the Committee heard an update on ferry system toll implementation from Paul Morris, Deputy Secretary for Transit, DOT. Following this presentation, the Committee heard project updates on the Charlotte Blue Line extension and Red Line regional rail from Carolyn Flowers, Chief Executive Officer, Charlotte Area Transit System, and Paul Morris, Deputy Secretary for Transit, DOT. Next, the Committee heard a presentation on capital grants for a rail line relocation project from Patrick Simmons, Director, Rail Division, DOT. Finally, the Committee heard from Garland Horton, President, Aberdeen and Rockfish Railroad, on short line railroads.

March 9, 2012

The fifth meeting of the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee during the 2011-2012 biennium was held Friday, March 9, 2012 in Room 1228 of the Legislative Building. The Committee first heard an overview of the North Carolina Railroad from Scott Saylor, President, North Carolina Railroad Company. Next, the Committee heard a series of reports required by provisions of the 2011 Budget Act:

- Study Exempting Motor Vehicles from Emissions Inspections (Section 28.24 of 2011 Budget), by Jimmie Massengill, Assistant Supervisor, License and Theft, Division of Motor Vehicles, and Mike Abraczinskas, Deputy Director, Division of Air Quality, DENR.
- An interim report on Regional Consolidation of Transit Systems (Section 28.21 of 2011 Budget), by Paul Morris, Deputy Secretary for Transit, DOT, and Fred Fravel, Vice President, KFH Group.
- Department of Revenue to Report on Motor Fuels Tax Auditor and Investigator Performance (Section 28.25 of 2011 Budget), by Linda Millsaps, Chief Operating Officer, Department of Revenue, Alan Woodard, Director of Examinations, and Jocelyn Andrews, Director of Tax Enforcement.
- Department of Revenue Study Reimbursement Process for Department of Correction Litter Pickup (Section 28.26 of 2011 Budget), by John Leskovec, Management Analyst, Office of State Budget and Management.

April 13, 2012

The sixth meeting of the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee during the 2011-2012 biennium was held April 13, 2012 in Room 1228 of the Legislative Building. The Committee first heard a presentation on inmate litter pickup from Joe Prater, Assistant Section Chief, Prisons Administrative Services, Department of Public Safety. Next, the Committee heard a presentation on metropolitan and rural planning organizations and their role in transportation planning from Mike Bruff, Manager, Transportation Planning Branch, DOT and Alpesh Patel, Senior Transportation Engineer, Strategic Planning Office, DOT. The Committee then heard a presentation on Metropolitan Planning Organization/Rural Planning Organization (MPO/RPO) survey results from Anna Cameron, Committee Staff. The Committee's meeting continued with a Corridor K update from Terry Gibson, State Highway Administrator, DOT. Following this presentation the Committee heard a proposed resolution in support of Corridor K, summarized by Giles S. Perry, Committee Staff, and voted to recommend the resolution to the General Assembly. Next, the Committee heard a background presentation on state retread tire purchases by Giles S. Perry, Committee Staff. The Committee then heard an explanation of five proposed bills on the following topics: state retread tire purchases; repeal of the restriction of unique color backgrounds for special license plates; ethics requirements for MPOs and RPOs; the DOT prioritization process; and changing the parameters for forming an RPO. Next, the Committee endorsed a recommendation for DOT to require increased meeting notice requirements for MPOs and RPOs. Following a brief discussion of ferry tolls, the Committee adjourned.

April 23, 2012

The seventh meeting of the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight during the 2011-2012 biennium was held April 23, 2012 in Room 1228 of the Legislative Building. The Committee first discussed draft legislation repealing State ferry tolls imposed by action of the 2011 General Assembly. During the Committee's discussion on the issue, several Senate members of the Committee expressed concerns about the draft legislation, and their intent to abstain from voting on the draft. The draft legislation was approved by the Committee on a voice vote, with several members abstaining. Next, the Committee reviewed and several additional legislative proposals and recommendations included in this report, and adjourned.

May 16, 2012

The eighth meeting of the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight during the 2011-2012 biennium was held May 16, 2012 in Room 1027 of the Legislative Building. The Committee reviewed and approved several additional legislative proposals and recommendations included in this report, authorized completion of this report, and adjourned.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

April 13, 2012 Findings and Recommendations

At its April 13, 2012 meeting, the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee voted to approve the following five proposed bills, and one Committee Resolution as recommendations to the General Assembly, and one Committee recommendation to the Department of Transportation. A copy of each proposed bill can be found in Appendix C, and the Resolution can be found in Appendix D.

Proposed Bills

1. Retread Tire Changes 2011-RWz-15
2. License Plate Background 2011-RWz-18
3. Ethics Requirement for MPOs/RPOs 2011-SUz-8
4. RPO Area Definition 2011-RWz-21
5. Require DOT Strategic Prioritization Process 2011-SUz-9

Committee Resolution

1. Resolution Supporting Construction of Corridor K

Committee Recommendation

1. The Committee recommends that the Department of Transportation require Metropolitan Planning Organizations and Rural Transportation Planning Organizations, when holding meetings of Transportation Advisory Committees or Technical Coordinating Committees, to:
 - require one week notice of meetings to the public for non-emergency meetings; and
 - place the public comment item on the agenda, preferably at the beginning of the meeting.

May 16, 2012 Findings and Recommendations

At its May 16, 2012 meeting, the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee voted to approve the following seven proposed bills. A copy of each proposed bill can be found in Appendix C.

Proposed Bills

1. DOT Division of Motor Vehicles Legislative Requests 2011-ME-150
2. Increase DOT Public-Private Partnerships 2011-ME-158
3. Privacy of Turnpike Authority Toll Data 2011-ME-122
4. Authorize Reciprocity Agreements for Tolls 2011-ME-149
5. Update Ch. 136 with Term "Chief Engineer" 2011-ME-161
6. Secretary of Transportation Project Approval 2011-RWz-22
7. Strengthen Board of Transportation Ethics Policy 2011-RWz-23

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

2011-2012

President Pro Tempore of the Senate

Appointments:

Sen. Bill Rabon (Co-Chair)
Sen. Warren Daniel
Sen. Malcolm Graham
Sen. Rick Gunn
Sen. Kathy Harrington
Sen. Ralph Hise
Sen. Neal Hunt
Sen. Clark Jenkins
Sen. Jerry W. Tillman
Sen. Don Vaughan

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Appointments:

Rep. Phillip Frye (Co-Chair)
Rep. Grey Mills (Co-Chair)
Rep. Frank Iler (Vice Chair)
Rep. Rayne Brown
Rep. James W. Crawford, Jr.
Rep. Mitch Gillespie
Rep. Ric Killian
Rep. Daniel F. McComas
Rep. Bill Owens
Rep. Timothy L. Spear
Rep. Fred F. Steen, II

Advisory Members

Sen. Chris Carney

COMMITTEE CHARGE/STATUTORY AUTHORITY

§ 120-70.51. Purpose and powers of Committee.

- (a) The Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee may:
- (1) Review reports prepared by the Department of Transportation or any other agency of State government related, in any manner, to transportation, when those reports are required by any law.
 - (2) Monitor the funds deposited in and expenditures from the North Carolina Highway Trust Fund, the Highway Fund, the General Fund, or any other fund when those expenditures are related, in any manner, to transportation.
 - (3) Determine whether funds related, in any manner, to transportation are being spent in accordance with law.
 - (4) Determine whether any revisions are needed in the funding for a program for which funds in the Trust Fund, the Highway Fund, the General Fund, or any other fund when those expenditures are related, in any manner, to transportation may be used, including revisions needed to meet any statutory timetable or program.
 - (4a) Examine the importance of railroads and railroad infrastructure improvements to economic development in North Carolina, including improvements to short line railroads.
 - (4b) Study issues important to the future of passenger and freight rail service in North Carolina.
 - (4c) Determine methods to expedite property disputes between railroads and private landowners.
 - (4d) Study all aspects of the operation, structure, management, and long range plans of the North Carolina Railroad.
 - (5) Report to the General Assembly at the beginning of each regular session concerning its determinations of needed changes in the funding or operation of programs related, in any manner, to transportation.

These powers, which are enumerated by way of illustration, shall be liberally construed to provide for the maximum oversight by the Committee of all transportation matters in this State.

(b) The Committee may make interim reports to the General Assembly on matters for which it may report to a regular session of the General Assembly. A report to the General Assembly may contain any legislation needed to implement a recommendation of the Committee.

Additional responsibility of Committee

Pursuant to G.S. 143B-350(n), the Committee has the opportunity to review proposed appointments to the Board of Transportation for 30 days prior to the appointments becoming effective.

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2011

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D

BILL DRAFT 2011-RWz-15 [v.3] (02/21)

(THIS IS A DRAFT AND IS NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION)
3/22/2012 1:34:21 PM

Short Title: Retread Tire Changes.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

- 1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ENSURE USE OF COST EFFICIENT RETREAD TIRES ON STATE
3 VEHICLES.
4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:
5 SECTION 1. G.S. 115C-249.1 reads as rewritten:
6 "§ 115C-249.1. Purchase of tires for school buses; repair or refurbishment of tires
7 for school buses.
8 (a) Definitions. – The following terms apply in this section:
9 (1) Critical tire information. – Tire brand name, tire line name, tire
10 identification numbers, load and pressure markings, tire size
11 designation, service descriptions such as load and speed ratings, and
12 other information and specifications placed on the original tire
13 sidewall by the original tire manufacturer.
14 (2) School bus. – A vehicle as defined in G.S. 20-4.01(27)d3. and
15 G.S. 20-4.01(27)d4. that is owned, rented, or leased by a local board of
16 education.
17 (b) Forensic Tire Standards. – In order to preserve critical tire information, a
18 local board of education shall procure and install for school buses only tires that possess
19 the original, unaltered, and uncovered tire sidewall. Furthermore, a local board of
20 education shall not execute a contract for the repair or refurbishment of tires for school
21 buses that provides for the removal, covering, or other alteration in any manner of the
22 critical tire information contained on the original tire sidewall.
23 (b1) Retread Rubber Formulation Specifications. – Contracts for school bus tires
24 executed on or after July 1, 2012 shall not include any specification for retread rubber
25 formulations.
26 (b2) Use of Pre-Cure Fuel Efficient Rated Retread Tires.- Contracts for school bus
27 tires executed on or after July 1, 2012 shall include specifications requiring pre-cure
28 fuel efficient rated retreaded tires, as certified by the retread rubber manufacturer.
29 (c) Tire Purchase and Contract Standards Applicability. – All contracts for the
30 purchase, repair, or refurbishment of tires for school buses, or contracts for the purchase
31 of products or services related to the repair or refurbishment of tires for school buses,

1 executed on or after the date this section becomes effective July 1, 2011 shall comply
2 with the provisions of this section.

3 (d) Exemption. – Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, a local board of
4 education that owns or has a legally binding contract in place for the future purchase of
5 tires having altered or covered sidewalls prior to the date that this section becomes
6 effective July 1, 2011 shall perform its existing contractual obligations related thereto
7 and may continue to use those tires on school buses for the useful life of the retreaded
8 tire."

9 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 143-63.2 reads as rewritten:

10 **"§ 143-63.2. Purchase of tires for State vehicles; repair or refurbishment of tires
11 for State vehicles.**

12 (a) Definitions. – The following terms apply in this section:

13 (1) Critical tire information. – Tire brand name, tire line name, tire
14 identification numbers, load and pressure markings, tire size
15 designation, service descriptions such as load and speed ratings, and
16 other information and specifications placed on the original tire
17 sidewall by the original tire manufacturer.

18 (2) State vehicle. – Any vehicle owned, rented, or leased by the State, or
19 an institution, department, or agency of the State, that is driven on a
20 public road consistently at speeds greater than 30 miles per hour.

21 (b) Forensic Tire Standards. – In order to preserve critical tire information, the
22 Secretary of Administration and any institution, department, or agency of the State shall
23 only procure and install tires for State vehicles that possess the original, unaltered, and
24 uncovered tire sidewall. Furthermore, neither the Secretary of Administration nor any
25 institution, department, or agency of the State shall execute a contract for the repair or
26 refurbishment of tires for State vehicles that provides for the removal, covering, or other
27 alteration in any manner of the critical tire information contained on the original tire
28 sidewall.

29 (c) Tire Purchase and Contract Standards Applicability. – All contracts for the
30 purchase, repair, or refurbishment of tires for State vehicles, or contracts for the
31 purchase of products or services related to the repair or refurbishment of tires for State
32 vehicles, executed on or after the date this section becomes effective July 1, 2011 shall
33 comply with the provisions of this section.

34 (d) Exemption. – Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the State or any
35 institution, department, or agency of the State that owns or has a legally binding
36 contract in place for the future purchase of tires having altered or covered sidewalls
37 prior to the date that this section becomes effective July 1, 2011 shall perform its
38 existing contractual obligations related thereto and may continue to use those tires on
39 State vehicles for the useful life of the retreaded tire."

40 **SECTION 3.** The Division of Purchase and Contract shall not extend its
41 current contract for retreading of tires beyond the 90 day time period allowed under the
42 contract.

43 **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law.
44

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2011

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D

BILL DRAFT 2011-RWz-18 [v.6] (04/09)

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4/12/2012 3:17:13 PM

Short Title: License Plate Background.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

- 1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE CONTINUED ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL LICENSE
3 PLATES WITH UNIQUE PLATE BACKGROUND DESIGNS.
4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:
5 SECTION 1. G.S. 20-63(b) reads as rewritten:
6 "(b) Every license plate must display the registration number assigned to the
7 vehicle for which it is issued, the name of the State of North Carolina, which may be
8 abbreviated, and the year number for which it is issued or the date of expiration. A plate
9 issued for a commercial vehicle, as defined in G.S. 20-4.2(1), and weighing 26,001
10 pounds or more, must bear the word "commercial," unless the plate is a special
11 registration plate authorized in G.S. 20-79.4 or the commercial vehicle is a trailer or is
12 licensed for 6,000 pounds or less. The plate issued for vehicles licensed for 7,000
13 pounds through 26,000 pounds must bear the word "weighted," unless the plate is a
14 special registration plate authorized in G.S. 20-79.4.
15 ~~A~~ Except as otherwise provided in this section, a registration plate issued by the
16 Division for a private passenger vehicle or for a private hauler vehicle licensed for
17 6,000 pounds or less shall be a "First in Flight" plate. A "First in Flight" plate shall have
18 the words "First in Flight" printed at the top of the plate above all other letters and
19 numerals. The background of the plate shall depict the Wright Brothers biplane flying
20 over Kitty Hawk Beach, with the plane flying slightly upward and to the right.
21 (b1) The following special registration plates do not have to be a "First in Flight"
22 plate as provided in subsection (b) of this section. The design of the plates that are not
23 "First in Flight" plates must be approved by the Division and the State Highway Patrol
24 for clarity and ease of identification. ~~When the Division registers a vehicle or renews~~
25 ~~the registration of a vehicle on or after July 1, 2015, the Division must send the owner a~~
26 ~~replacement special license plate in a standardized format in accordance with subsection~~
27 ~~(b) of this section and G.S. 20-79.4(a3).~~
28 (1) Friends of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.
29 (2) Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.
30 (3) Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation.
31 (4) Friends of the Appalachian Trail.

- 1 (5) NC Coastal Federation.
- 2 (6) In God We Trust.
- 3 (7) Stock Car Racing Theme.
- 4 (8) Buddy Pelletier Surfing Foundation.
- 5 (9) Guilford Battleground Company.
- 6 (10) National Wild Turkey Federation.
- 7 (11) North Carolina Aquarium Society.
- 8 (12) First in Forestry.
- 9 (13) North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation.
- 10 (14) NC Trout Unlimited.
- 11 (15) Ducks Unlimited.
- 12 (16) Lung Cancer Research.
- 13 (17) NC State Parks.
- 14 (18) Support Our Troops.
- 15 (19) US Equine Rescue League.
- 16 (20) Fox Hunting.
- 17 (21) Back Country Horsemen of North Carolina.
- 18 (22) Hospice Care.
- 19 (23) Home Care and Hospice.
- 20 (24) NC Tennis Foundation.
- 21 (25) AIDS Awareness.
- 22 (26) Donate Life.
- 23 (27) Farmland Preservation.
- 24 (28) Travel and Tourism.
- 25 (29) Battle of Kings Mountain.
- 26 (30) NC Civil War.
- 27 (31) North Carolina Zoological Society.
- 28 (32) United States Service Academy.
- 29 (33) Carolina Raptor Center.
- 30 (34) Carolinas Credit Union Foundation.
- 31 (35) North Carolina State Flag.
- 32 (36) NC Mining.
- 33 (37) Coastal Land Trust.
- 34 (38) ARTS NC.
- 35 (39) Choose Life.
- 36 (40) North Carolina Green Industry Council.
- 37 (41) NC Horse Council.
- 38 (42) Core Sound Waterfowl Museum and Heritage Center."
- 39 **SECTION 2.** Section 1.1 of S.L. 2011-392 is repealed.
- 40 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2012.
- 41

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2011

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D

BILL DRAFT 2011-RWz-21 [v.2] (04/12)

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Short Title: RPO Area Definition.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO CHANGE THE DEFINITION ON AN AREA THAT CAN BE
3 REPRESENTED BY A RURAL PLANNING ORIGINATION.
4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:
5 SECTION 1. G.S. 136-211 reads as rewritten:
6 "§ 136-211. Department authorized to establish Rural Transportation Planning
7 Organizations.
8 (a) Authorization. – The Department of Transportation is authorized to form
9 Rural Transportation Planning Organizations.
10 (b) Area Represented. – Rural Transportation Planning Organizations shall
11 include representatives from contiguous areas in three to fifteen counties, ~~with or~~ a total
12 population of the entire area represented of at least 50,000 persons according to the
13 latest population estimate of the ~~Office of State Planning~~ Office of State Budget and
14 Management. Noncontiguous counties adjacent to the same Metropolitan Planning
15 Organization may form a Rural Transportation Planning Organization. Areas already
16 included in a Metropolitan Planning Organization shall not be included in the area
17 represented by a Rural Transportation Planning Organization.
18 (c) Membership. – The Rural Transportation Planning Organization shall consist
19 of local elected officials or their designees and representatives of local transportation
20 systems in the area as agreed to by all parties in a memorandum of understanding.
21 (d) Formation; Memorandum of Understanding. – The Department shall notify
22 local elected officials and representatives of local transportation systems around the
23 State of the opportunity to form Rural Transportation Planning Organizations. The
24 Department shall work cooperatively with interested local elected officials, their
25 designees, and representatives of local transportation systems to develop a proposed
26 area, membership, functions, and responsibilities of a Rural Transportation Planning
27 Organization. The agreement of all parties shall be included in a memorandum of
28 understanding approved by the membership of a proposed Rural Transportation
29 Planning Organization and the Secretary of the Department of Transportation."
30 SECTION 2. This act is effective when it becomes law.
31

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2011

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D

BILL DRAFT 2011-SUz-9 [v.3] (03/21)

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4/17/2012 3:06:02 PM

Short Title: Require DOT Strategic Prioritization Process. (Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO
3 DEVELOP AND UTILIZE A STRATEGIC PRIORITIZATION PROCESS FOR
4 SELECTION OF TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS.
5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:
6 SECTION 1. G.S. 136-18 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:
7 "(42) The Department shall develop and utilize a process for selection of
8 transportation projects that is based on professional standards in order
9 to most efficiently use limited resources to benefit all citizens of the
10 State. The strategic prioritization process should be a systematic, data
11 driven process that includes a combination of quantitative data,
12 qualitative input, and multimodal characteristics, and should include
13 local input. The Department shall develop a process for standardizing
14 or approving local methodology used in Metropolitan Planning
15 Organization and Rural Transportation Planning Organization
16 prioritization."
17 SECTION 2. This act is effective when it becomes law.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2011

U

D

BILL DRAFT 2011-ME-150 [v.5] (04/19)

(THIS IS A DRAFT AND IS NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION)
5/15/2012 11:05:38 AM

Short Title: DOT Division of Motor Vehicles Leg. Requests.-AB

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO AMEND STATUTES RELATED TO MOTORCYCLE LICENSES, TO
ELIMINATE A REQUIREMENT TO LIST RACE ON DRIVERS LICENSES, AND TO
DELAY THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TWO CHANGES TO DRIVERS LICENSES
PENDING AN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEM UPGRADE.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. Subsections (a1) and (a2) of G.S. 20-7 read as rewritten:

"(a1) Motorcycles and Mopeds. – To drive a motorcycle, a person shall have one of the following:

- (1) A full provisional license with a motorcycle learner's permit.
- (2) A regular drivers license with a motorcycle learner's permit.
- (3) A full provisional license with a motorcycle endorsement.
- (4) A regular drivers license, license with a motorcycle endorsement.

~~Subsection (a2) of this section sets forth the requirements for a motorcycle learner's permit.~~
To obtain a motorcycle endorsement, a person shall pay the fee set in subsection (i) of this section. In addition, to obtain an endorsement, a person ~~age 18 or older shall demonstrate competence to drive a motorcycle by passing a written or oral test concerning motorcycles and passing a road test, and a person less than 18 years of age shall demonstrate competence to drive a motorcycle by~~ (i) passing a written or oral knowledge test concerning motorcycles and (ii) passing a road test or providing proof of successful completion of one of the following:

- ~~(1) The Motorcycle Safety Foundation Basic Rider Course or Experienced Rider Course.~~
- (2) The North Carolina Motorcycle Safety Education Program Basic Rider Course or Experienced Rider Course.
- (3) Any course approved by the Commissioner consistent with the instruction provided through the Motorcycle Safety Instruction Program established under G.S. 115D-72.

A person less than 18 years of age with a motorcycle endorsement may not drive a motorcycle with a passenger.

Neither a drivers license nor a motorcycle endorsement is required to drive a moped.

(a2) Motorcycle Learner's Permit. – The following persons are eligible for a motorcycle learner's permit:

- (1) A person who is at least 16 years old but less than 18 years old and has a full provisional license issued by the Division.

1 (2) A person who is at least 18 years old and has a license issued by the
2 Division.

3 ~~To obtain a motorcycle learner's permit, an applicant shall pass a vision test, a road sign~~
4 ~~test, and a written knowledge test specified by the Division. An applicant who is less than 18~~
5 ~~years old shall successfully complete the Motorcycle Safety Foundation Basic Rider Course or~~
6 ~~the North Carolina Motorcycle Safety Education Program Basic Rider Course. A motorcycle~~
7 ~~learner's permit expires twelve months after it is issued and may be renewed for one additional~~
8 ~~six-month period. The holder of a motorcycle learner's permit may not drive a motorcycle with~~
9 ~~a passenger. The fee for a motorcycle learner's permit is the amount set in G.S. 20-7(l) for a~~
10 ~~learner's permit."~~

11 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 20-7(n) reads as rewritten:

12 "(n) Format. – A drivers license issued by the Division must be tamperproof and must
13 contain all of the following information:

- 14 (1) An identification of this State as the issuer of the license.
- 15 (2) The license holder's full name.
- 16 (3) The license holder's residence address.
- 17 (4) A color photograph, or a properly applied laser engraved picture on
18 polycarbonate material, of the license holder, taken by the Division.
- 19 (5) A physical description of the license holder, including sex, height, eye color,
20 and hair color.
- 21 (6) The license holder's date of birth.
- 22 (7) An identifying number for the license holder assigned by the Division. The
23 identifying number may not be the license holder's social security number.
- 24 (8) Each class of motor vehicle the license holder is authorized to drive and any
25 endorsements or restrictions that apply.
- 26 (9) The license holder's signature.
- 27 (10) The date the license was issued and the date the license expires.

28 The Commissioner shall ensure that applicants 21 years old or older are issued drivers
29 licenses and special identification cards that are printed in a horizontal format. The
30 Commissioner shall ensure that applicants under the age of 21 are issued drivers licenses and
31 special identification cards that are printed in a vertical format, that distinguishes them from the
32 horizontal format, for ease of identification of individuals under age 21 by members of
33 industries that regulate controlled products that are sale restricted by age and law enforcement
34 officers enforcing these laws.

35 At the request of an applicant for a drivers license, a license issued to the applicant must
36 contain the applicant's ~~face.~~"

37 **SECTION 3.** Section 3 of S.L. 2011-35 reads as rewritten:

38 ~~"SECTION 3. This act becomes effective when the Division of Motor Vehicles has~~
39 ~~completed the implementation of the Division's Next Generation Secure Driver License System~~
40 ~~or July 1, 2012, whichever occurs first, and applies to drivers licenses issued on or after that~~
41 ~~date. on the later of the following dates and applies to drivers licenses issued on or after that~~
42 ~~date:~~

- 43 (1) January 1, 2013.
- 44 (2) The first day of a month that is thirty days after the Commissioner of Motor
45 Vehicles Certifies to the Revisor of Statutes that Division of Motor Vehicles
46 has completed the implementation of the Division's Next Generation Secure
47 Driver License System."

48 **SECTION 4.** Section 2 of S.L. 2011-228 reads as rewritten:

1 ~~"SECTION 2. This act becomes effective July 1, 2012, and applies to endorsements issued~~
2 ~~for commercial drivers licenses on or after that date. on the later of the following dates and~~
3 ~~applies to endorsements issued for commercial drivers licenses issued on or after that date:~~

4 (1) January 1, 2013.

5 (2) The first day of a month that is thirty days after the Commissioner of Motor
6 Vehicles Certifies to the Revisor of Statutes that Division of Motor Vehicles
7 has completed the implementation of the Division's Next Generation Secure
8 Driver License System."

9 **SECTION 5.** When the Division of Motor Vehicles has completed the
10 implementation of the Division's Next Generation Secure Driver License System, the
11 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall certify to the Revisor of Statutes that the Division of
12 Motor Vehicles has completed the implementation. When making the certification, the
13 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall reference S.L. 2011-35, S.L. 2011-228, and the session
14 law number of this act.

15 **SECTION 6.** Sections 1 and 2 of this act are effective July 1, 2012. The remainder
16 of this act is effective when it becomes law.
17

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2011

U

D

BILL DRAFT 2011-ME-158 [v.4] (05/09)

(THIS IS A DRAFT AND IS NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION)
5/10/2012 9:48:39 AM

Short Title: Increase DOT Public-Private Partnerships.-AB

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO INCREASE PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS FOR TOLLING AND
3 OTHER FINANCING METHODS ON TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE
4 PROJECTS.
5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:
6 SECTION 1. G.S. 136-18 reads as rewritten:
7 "§ 136-18. Powers of Department of Transportation.
8 The said Department of Transportation is vested with the following powers:
9 ...
10 (39) To enter into partnership agreements with private entities, and authorized
11 political subdivisions to finance, by tolls, contracts, and other financing
12 methods authorized by law, the cost of acquiring, constructing, equipping,
13 maintaining, and operating transportation infrastructure in this State, and to
14 plan, design, develop, acquire, construct, equip, maintain, and operate
15 transportation infrastructure in this State. An agreement entered into under
16 this subdivision requires the concurrence of the Board of Transportation.
17 The Department shall report to the Chairs of the Joint Legislative
18 Transportation Oversight Committee, the Chairs of the House of
19 Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, and the
20 Chairs of the Senate Appropriations Committee on the Department of
21 Transportation, at the same time it notifies the Board of Transportation of
22 any proposed agreement under this subdivision. Any contracts for
23 construction of highways, roads, streets, and bridges which are awarded
24 pursuant to an agreement entered into under this section shall comply with
25 the competitive bidding requirements of Article 2 of this Chapter. In
26 connection with any agreement entered into under this section, the following
27 shall apply:
28 a. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 3 of Chapter 44A, an
29 agreement entered into under this subdivision may require the private
30 entity or its contractors to provide performance and payment security
31 in the form and in the amount determined by the Department of
32 Transportation. Such performance and payment security may consist
33 of bonds, letters of credit, parent guaranties or other instruments
34 acceptable to the Department of Transportation.

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- b. Notwithstanding the provisions of G.S. 143B-426.40A, an agreement entered into under this section may allow the private entity to assign, transfer, sell, hypothecate, and otherwise convey some or all of its right, title, and interest in and to such agreement, and any rights and remedies thereunder, to a lender, bondholder, or any other party.
- c. The Department of Transportation, with respect to transportation infrastructure financed in whole or in part by tolls, shall have the powers to fix, revise, charge, and collect tolls and fees with respect to such transportation infrastructure, and an agreement entered into under this section may allow the private entity to fix, revise, charge, and collect such tolls and fees.
- d. Revenues derived from transportation infrastructure that are not allocated to a private entity or repayment of financing or other costs under an agreement entered into under this section may be used for the following:
 - i. Administration, development, right of way acquisition, design, construction, operation, and maintenance costs of the Department.
 - ii. Debt service on revenue bonds issued by or on behalf of the Department.
 - iii. Other financing costs related to transportation infrastructure.
 - iv. The establishment of debt service reserve funds.
 - v. Any other lawful purpose.

...
 (41) The Department shall, prior to the beginning of construction, determine whether all sidewalks and other facilities primarily intended for the use of pedestrians and bicycles that are to be constructed within the right-of-way of a public street or highway that is a part of the State highway system or an urban highway system must be constructed of permeable pavement. "Permeable pavement" means paving material that absorbs water or allows water to infiltrate through the paving material. Permeable pavement materials include porous concrete, permeable interlocking concrete pavers, concrete grid pavers, porous asphalt, and any other material with similar characteristics. Compacted gravel shall not be considered permeable pavement.

(42) The Department may exercise the powers and duties set forth in Article 6H of this chapter independently of the Authority and may contract to exercise those powers and duties through a vendor, subject to the provisions of subdivision (39) of this section."

SECTION 2. This act is effective when it becomes law.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2011

U

D

BILL DRAFT 2011-ME-122 [v.4] (03/05)

(THIS IS A DRAFT AND IS NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION)
5/10/2012 9:50:26 AM

Short Title: Privacy of Turnpike Authority Toll Data.-AB

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ENSURE THE PRIVACY OF TOLL DATA COLLECTED BY THE
3 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION THROUGH THE NORTH CAROLINA
4 TURNPIKE AUTHORITY.
5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:
6 SECTION 1. G.S. 136-89.213(a) reads as rewritten:
7 "**§ 136-89.213. Administration of tolls and requirements for open road tolls.**
8 (a) Administration. – The Authority is responsible for collecting tolls on
9 Turnpike projects. In exercising its authority under G.S. 136-89.183 to perform or
10 procure services required by the Authority, the Authority may contract with one or more
11 providers to perform part or all of the collection functions and may enter into
12 agreements to exchange information that identifies motor vehicles and their owners with
13 one or more of the following entities: the Division of Motor Vehicles of the
14 Department of Transportation, another state, another toll operator, or a toll
15 collection-related organization.
16 (a1) Identifying information obtained by the Authority through an agreement is
17 not a public record and is subject to the disclosure limitations in 18 U.S.C. § 2721, the
18 federal Driver's Privacy Protection Act. ~~Act.~~ The Authority shall maintain the
19 confidentiality of all information relating to electronic toll collection, including, but not
20 limited to, personal information, financial information, transactions and transaction
21 history, and information related to the collection of a toll or user fee, including, but not
22 limited to, photographs or other recorded images or automatic vehicle identification or
23 driver account information generated by radio-frequency identification or other
24 electronic means. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section:
25 (1) The account holder may examine his own account information, and the
26 Authority may use the account information for purposes of collecting
27 and enforcing tolls.
28 (2) A party, by authority of a proper court order, may inspect and examine
29 confidential account information."
30 SECTION 2. This act is effective when it becomes law.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2011

U

D

BILL DRAFT 2011-ME-149 [v.3] (04/19)

(THIS IS A DRAFT AND IS NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION)
5/10/2012 9:40:27 AM

Short Title: Authorize Reciprocity Agreements for Tolls.-AB

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE RECIPROCITY AGREEMENTS FOR TOLL
PAYMENTS BETWEEN THE NORTH CAROLINA TURNPIKE AUTHORITY
AND OTHER TOLL AGENCIES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 136-89.183(a) is amended by adding a new subdivision to
read as follows:

"§ 136-89.183. Powers of the Authority.

(a) The Authority shall have all of the powers necessary to execute the provisions
of this Article, including the following:

(19) To enter into reciprocal toll enforcement agreements with other toll
agencies, as provided in G.S. 136-89.220."

SECTION 2. G.S. 136-89.217 reads as rewritten:

"§ 136-89.217. Vehicle registration renewal blocked for unpaid open road toll.

(a) Registration Block. – Failure of a person to pay an open road toll billed to the
person under G.S. 136-89.214, any processing fee added under G.S. 136-89.215, and
any civil penalty imposed under ~~G.S. 136-89.216~~ G.S. 136-89.216, as well as any toll,
processing fee, or civil penalty owed to another tolling jurisdiction with which the
Authority has a valid reciprocal toll enforcement agreement under G.S. 136-89.220, is
grounds under G.S. 20-54 to withhold the registration renewal of a motor vehicle
registered in that person's name. The Authority must notify the Commissioner of Motor
Vehicles of a person who owes a toll, a processing fee, or a civil penalty. When notified,
the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles must withhold the registration renewal of any
motor vehicle registered in that person's name.

(b) Repealed by Session Laws 2010-133, s. 6, effective December 1, 2010."

SECTION 3. Part 2 of Article 6H of Chapter 136 of the General Statutes is
amended by adding a new section to read as follows:

"§ 136-89.220. Reciprocal toll enforcement agreements.

The Authority may enter into reciprocal agreement with other tolling jurisdictions to
enforce toll violations. Such an agreement shall provide that, when another toll agency

1 certifies that the registered owner of a vehicle registered in this State has failed to pay a
2 toll, processing fee, or civil penalty due to that toll agency, the unpaid toll, processing
3 fee, or civil penalty may be enforced by the Authority placing a renewal block as if it
4 were an unpaid toll, processing fee, or civil penalty owed to this State under
5 G.S. 136-89.217. Such agreement shall only be enforceable, however, if all of the
6 following are true:

- 7 (1) The other toll agency has its own effective reciprocal procedure for toll
8 violation enforcement and does, in fact, reciprocate in enforcing toll
9 violations within this State by withholding the registration renewal of
10 registered owners of motor vehicles from the State of the other toll
11 agency.
- 12 (2) The other toll agency provides due process and appeal protections to
13 avoid the likelihood that a false, mistaken, or unjustified claim will be
14 pursued against the owner of a vehicle registered in this State.
- 15 (3) The owner of a vehicle registered in this State may present evidence to
16 the other toll agency by mail or other means to invoke rights of due
17 process without having to appear personally in the jurisdiction where
18 the violation allegedly occurred.
- 19 (4) The reciprocal violation enforcement arrangement between the
20 Authority and the other toll agency provides that each party shall
21 charge the other for costs associated with registration hold in their
22 respective jurisdiction."

23 **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2011

U

D

BILL DRAFT 2011-ME-161 [v.2] (05/10)

(THIS IS A DRAFT AND IS NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION)
5/12/2012 11:05:30 AM

Short Title: Update Ch. 136 with Term "Chief Engineer."

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO UPDATE CHAPTER 136 OF THE GENERAL STATUTES WITH THE
3 TERM "CHIEF ENGINEER," WHICH REPLACES THE TERM "STATE
4 HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR."
5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:
6 SECTION 1. G.S. 136-4 reads as rewritten:
7 "**§ 136-4. ~~State Highway Administrator~~ Chief Engineer.**
8 There shall be a ~~State Highway Administrator~~, Chief Engineer, who shall be a career
9 official and who shall be the administrative officer of the Department of Transportation
10 for highway matters. The ~~State Highway Administrator~~ Chief Engineer shall be
11 appointed by the Secretary of Transportation and he may be removed at any time by the
12 Secretary of Transportation. He shall be paid a salary to be set in accordance with
13 Chapter 126 of the General Statutes, the State Personnel Act. The ~~State Highway~~
14 ~~Administrator~~ Chief Engineer shall have such powers and perform such duties as the
15 Secretary of Transportation shall prescribe."
16 SECTION 2. G.S. 136-18.3(a) reads as rewritten:
17 "(a) The Department of Transportation is authorized to issue permits to counties
18 and municipalities for the location of containers on rights-of-way of state-maintained
19 highways for the collection of garbage. Such containers may be located on highway
20 rights-of-way only when authorized in writing by the ~~State Highway Administrator~~
21 Chief Engineer in accordance with rules and regulations promulgated by the
22 Department of Transportation. Such rules and regulations shall take into consideration
23 the safety of travelers on the highway and the elimination of unsightly conditions and
24 health hazards. Such containers shall not be located on fully controlled-access
25 highways."
26 SECTION 3. G.S. 136-64.1(d) reads as rewritten:
27 "(d) The Department of Transportation shall have the discretion to deny any
28 application submitted pursuant to this section, or it may grant a permit on any condition
29 it deems warranted. The Department, however, shall consider the use of alternate routes
30 available during flooding of the roads, and any inconvenience to the public or temporary
31 loss of access to business, homes and property. The Department shall have the authority

1 to promulgate regulations for the issuance of permits under this section and it may
2 delegate the authority for the consideration, issuance or denial of such permits to the
3 ~~State Highway Administrator. Chief Engineer.~~ Any applicant granted a permit pursuant
4 to this section shall cause suitable markers to be installed on the secondary road to
5 advise the general public of the intermittent closing of the road or roads involved. Such
6 markers shall be located and approved by the ~~State Highway Administrator. Chief~~
7 Engineer."

8 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 136-89.59(1) reads as rewritten:

9 "(1) Thirty-day permits shall be issued without cost by the Highway
10 Division Engineer. Permits shall be subject to revocation by the ~~State~~
11 ~~Highway Administrator. Chief Engineer~~ for violations of this section.
12 The applicant must be a nonprofit organization showing a record of
13 concern for automotive, highway, or driver safety."

14 **SECTION 5.** G.S. 136-89.194(f) reads as rewritten:

15 "**§ 136-89.194. Laws applicable to the Authority; exceptions.**

16 "(f) Construction Claims. – G.S. 136-29 applies to the adjustment and resolution
17 of Turnpike project construction claims. In applying G.S. 136-29 to the Turnpike
18 Authority, references to the 'Department of Transportation,' the '~~State Highway~~
19 ~~Administrator,~~ 'Chief Engineer,' and a 'State highway' are considered references to the
20 'Turnpike Authority,' the 'chief engineer of the Turnpike Authority,' and a 'Turnpike
21 project.'"

22 **SECTION 6.** This act is effective when it becomes law.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2011

U

D

BILL DRAFT 2011-RWz-22 [v.2] (05/04)

(THIS IS A DRAFT AND IS NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION)
5/10/2012 3:49:14 PM

Short Title: Sec. of Transportation Project Approval.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO CODIFY THE PROVISIONS OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER
3 TWO THAT DELEGATE TO THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION THE
4 AUTHORITY TO APPROVE HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS AND
5 CONSTRUCTION PLANS, AND TO AWARD HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION
6 CONTRACTS, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE
7 TRANSPORTATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.
8 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:
9 SECTION 1. G.S. 143B-350(g) reads as rewritten:
10 "(g) Delegation of Board Duties. – The Board of Transportation ~~may, in its~~
11 ~~discretion, shall~~ delegate to the Secretary of Transportation the ~~authority; authority under~~
12 subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection, and may delegate the authority under
13 subdivision (3) of this section:
14 (1) To approve all highway construction projects and construction plans
15 for the construction of projects;
16 (2) To award all highway construction contracts;
17 (3) To promulgate rules, regulations, and ordinances concerning all
18 transportation functions assigned to the Department.
19 The Secretary may, in turn, subdelegate these duties and powers."
20 SECTION 2. This act is effective when it becomes law.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2011

U

D

BILL DRAFT 2011-RWz-23 [v.3] (05/04)

(THIS IS A DRAFT AND IS NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION)
5/10/2012 3:51:01 PM

Short Title: Strengthen Bd. of Trans. Ethics Policy.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO CODIFY THE PROVISIONS OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER
3 TWO THAT STRENGTHEN THE BOARD OF TRANSPORTATION ETHICS
4 POLICY, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE
5 TRANSPORTATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.
6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:
7 SECTION 1. G. S. 143B-350 is amended by adding a new subsection to
8 read:
9 "(o) Additional Ethics Requirements.—Board members shall sign a sworn statement
10 that they will abide by the disclosure, ethics, and education requirements of this section,
11 and of Chapter 138A of the General Statutes. Following the convening of each Board of
12 Transportation meeting, and prior to the conduct of business, each Board member shall
13 sign a sworn statement that the member has no financial, professional or other interest
14 in any project being considered on the meeting agenda. To the extent the Board member
15 has such an interest, the Chair and member shall take all appropriate steps to ensure that
16 the interest is properly evaluated and addressed in accordance with law, and that the
17 member is not permitted to act on any matter in which the member has an disqualifying
18 conflict of interest."
19 SECTION 2. This act is effective when it becomes law.
20

**RESOLUTION
SUPPORTING THE CONSTRUCTION OF CORRIDOR K**

April 13, 2012

Whereas, Corridor K is a proposed four lane highway that is part of the Appalachian Development Highway System approved by Congress under the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965; and

Whereas, the Appalachian Development Highway System was designed to generate economic development in previously isolated areas, supplement the interstate system, connect Appalachia to the interstate system, and provide access to areas within the Region as well as to markets in the rest of the nation; and

Whereas, the portion of Corridor K (U.S. 74) located in Cherokee, Graham, and Swain Counties has not been completed; and

Whereas, completion of Corridor K is vitally important to the western mountain communities of the State, because of its impact on economic development, employment, tourism, public safety, and access to emergency facilities in the region; **Now, therefore**,

Be it resolved by the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee:

The Committee finds that Corridor K is a critical missing link in the North Carolina and Appalachian Development Highway Systems, supports its completion as soon as possible, and urges the North Carolina Department of Transportation and the federal government to make all efforts to expedite its construction.

